

The COMPASS test is given to students to help meet prerequisites so they may register for classes. The test has three sections: reading, writing and mathematics. Though the COMPASS is not a pass/fail exam, the results are used to place the student in appropriate classes. It is important that the student come prepared and ready to do their best on the assessment. We strongly advise the student to review the content on the recommended websites before arriving to take the COMPASS test. Spending the time to study is both cost and time effective. Students who review the subject matter before testing are more likely to test at a college ready proficiency. Low COMPASS scores place students into mandatory preparatory courses that substantially increase the time and expense required to earn a degree.

Please note: All first time attending, degree seeking students MUST attend orientation before taking the COMPASS test.

Studying for the COMPASS

The following websites contain information helpful for preparing to take the COMPASS Assessment:

- www.ivytech.edu/COMPASS
 - Click on the Lafayette campus and then on “For additional information, including practice tests, click [HERE](#).”
- COMPASS practice sites:
 - COMPASS Sample Tests: <http://www.act.org/compass/sample/index.html>
 - Writing & Reading Sample Tests: <https://web.gsc.edu/fs/mhorton/LSenglish/>

Mathematics: Multiple-choice items in each of the five mathematics placement areas test the following:

- basic skills—performing a sequence of basic operations
- application—applying sequences of basic operations to novel settings or in complex ways
- analysis—demonstrating conceptual understanding of principles and relationships in mathematical operations

Testers are advised to review the following areas: fractions, percentages, decimals, exponents, factoring, graphing, averages, ratios, proportions, polynomials and linear equations. Testers are permitted to use calculators when completing the COMPASS mathematics placement tests. An online calculator is available for those who wish to use it, the tester may bring their own non-graphing calculator or the Lafayette Assessment Center will provide the tester with a scientific calculator.

Math websites: www.aaamath.com and www.mathpower.com

Reading: Five types of reading comprehension passages are included: practical reading, social sciences, prose fiction, natural sciences and humanities.

Items have multiple-choice response options. The tester may read the passage as many times as needed and take as long as necessary before moving on to the next reading passage. The reading diagnostic section includes reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reader profile components.

Reading website: www.cerritos.edu/reading/tutorials.htm

Writing: In the writing portion, examinees are presented with an essay and are asked to look for errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and style. When examinees find what they believe to be errors, they move the mouse pointer to the appropriate part of the text and click the mouse. On the right side of the screen five options appear for revising that area of text. Note that the first option is always identical to the original wording in the text, and thus represents a NO CHANGE option. Examinees can choose to revise any section of the essay. After revising the essay, examinees are routed to two items focusing on rhetorical strategies. Examinees are advised to read EVERY sentence or phrase in the essay and determine the best answer for each.

Writing websites: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/> and www.chompchomp.com

Testing Hours and Contact Information

All first time attending, degree seeking students MUST attend orientation before taking the COMPASS.

Lafayette: Assessment Center, Ivy Hall, Room 1135

Compass testing is available during normal business hours by appointment. Please contact the Assessment Center at (765) 269-5611 or (800) 669-4882 ext. 5611 with questions regarding COMPASS testing.

Monday – Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – Noon

Monticello: White County Instructional Center, Monticello

Please call (574) 583-4891 for current testing schedule.

Crawfordsville: Crawfordsville Instructional Center

Please call (765) 359-0570 for an appointment and further information.

Reminders:

- You should study the review sites and look at the practice tests prior to taking the assessment.
- Bring your photo ID.
- If testing in Monticello and you are taking the math portion, please bring your calculator.
- You are not allowed to bring personal items including notes, paper, purses, phones, iPods, hats, food or drinks into the testing room.
- Family and friends must wait in the lounge. Children may not wait without supervision.
- The test is free of charge with a processed admissions application.
- Hours are subject to change without prior notice. The COMPASS test will not be started without adequate time for completion. The test is computer-based and untimed. It is not to your benefit to rush through any portion of the exam. Come prepared to spend adequate time to give your best effort in testing. You should allow at least one hour per section of the test.
- The test is not timed so RELAX!

If students have previous college credit, ACT, PSAT, and/or SAT, scores they may substitute assessment testing.

- College credit – If a student has taken a class from a regionally accredited Higher Learning Commission institution, a section of the test may be substituted based on the course. Transcripts must be evaluated by the Admissions Office.
- For information on ACT, PSAT, and SAT placement scores please visit:
<http://www.ivytech.edu/compass/placement-scores.html>